Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus for analyzing characters including a symbol character and for outputting the characters by voice synthesis, comprising:

a first detection module that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern based on in a character column [[in]] of one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols; and

a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting the paragraph section line from the character column.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recurrent string pattern is comprised of one kind of symbol that is repeated a plurality of times and another kind of symbol.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the paragraph section includes the another kind of symbol added as a

last character of the character column, at an end of the recurrent string pattern.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus for analyzing characters
including a symbol character and for outputting the characters by voice synthesis,
comprising:

a detection module that detects symmetry symmetrical patterns of a row of a
symbol characters respectively at a beginning and an end of character column based
on a character column [[in]] of one line; and

a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the
character column, after deleting symbol character column intervals from the character
column that have been detected as symmetrical patterns having symmetry by said
detection module.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein respective symbols of the symbol character column intervals have symmetry
with respect to shape.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 5,
further comprising a count module for counting up when a pair of symbols at
symmetrical positions within the character column have the same shape, whereby the
detection module deletes respective strings of symbol characters as the symbol

character column intervals when said count value is a predetermined value or more.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled)